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Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulmalik **Alshabibi** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 52 (see A/60/488, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 27th, 30th and 33rd meetings, on 10 and 15 November and 2 December 2005. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/60/SR.27, 30 and 33).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/60/L.25 and A/C.2/60/L.46

2. At the 27th meeting, on 10 November 2005, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, Japan and Mexico, subsequently joined by Sweden, introduced and orally revised a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/60/L.25), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002, 58/214 of 23 December 2003 and 59/231 of 22 December 2004 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/60/488 and Add.1-8.

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and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into due consideration its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"*Expressing its deep concern* at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

"*Reiterating* that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

"*Recognizing* that disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting issue in the context of sustainable development,

"*Recognizing also* the clear relationship among disasters, rehabilitation and development,

"*Recognizing further* the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to build resilience to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to address natural disasters effectively,

"*Emphasizing* that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

"*Stressing* the importance of advancing the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), and its relevant provisions on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management,

"*Expressing its profound gratitude* to the Government and people of Japan for the excellent arrangements made for hosting the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held at Kobe, Hyogo, from 18 to 22 January 2005, for the hospitality extended to the participants and for the facilities, staff and services placed at their disposal, as well as for all the voluntary contributions made to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular those from the least developed countries,

"*Welcoming* the Hyogo Declaration, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and the common statement of the Special Session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future, as adopted by the World Conference,

"*Recognizing* that the Hyogo Framework for Action complements the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,

"*Recalling* the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"2. *Endorses* the Hyogo Declaration, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and the common statement of the Special Session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future, as adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction;

"3. *Calls for* a more effective integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies, planning and programming; for the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards; and for a systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes;

"4. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, regional bodies and international organizations, and relevant civil society organizations to support, implement and follow up and support the Hyogo Framework for Action;

"5. *Calls upon* the international community to fully implement the particular commitments of the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action related to the provision of assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and disaster-stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for risk reduction activities in post-disaster recovery, and for rehabilitation processes, through the timely provision of adequate financial and other resources, transfer of environmentally sound technology and capacity-building;

"6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, including international financial institutions and international organizations, to integrate the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action in their strategies and programmes, making use of existing coordination mechanisms and, with those mechanisms, to assist developing countries in designing disaster risk reduction measures with a sense of urgency;

"7. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions and regional banks and other regional and international organizations, to support, in a timely and sustained manner, the efforts led by disaster-stricken countries for disaster risk reduction, in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes;

"8. *Takes note* of all the regional and subregional initiatives developed in order to achieve disaster risk reduction and reiterates the need to develop regional initiatives and risk reduction capacities of regional mechanisms and to strengthen them, wherever they exist, and encourage the use and sharing of all the existing tools;

"9. *Notes* the importance of developing international mechanisms for the implementation of the actions established in the Hyogo Framework for Action, such as the International Recovery Platform, launched to assure the reduction of vulnerability in the post-disaster recovery phase;

"10. *Recognizes* that each State has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk, inter alia, for the protection of people on its territory, infrastructure and other national assets for the impact of disasters, including the implementation and follow-up of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and stresses the importance of international cooperation and partnerships to support those national efforts;

"11. *Also recognizes* the need to strengthen the sharing of good practices, knowledge and technical support among all relevant stakeholders;

"12. *Calls upon* the international community to support the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards;

"13. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening the capacity of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction system in order to provide a solid basis for action, as mandated by the Hyogo Framework for Action, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on this issue at its sixty-first session;

"14. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating a gender perspective as well as engaging women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, particularly in the disaster reduction stage;

"15. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the Strategy by making voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"16. *Encourages* the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the Strategy and to provide the necessary scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and its working groups;

"17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy;

"18. *Invites* Governments and relevant international organizations to consider disaster risk assessment an integral component of development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

"19. *Stresses* the importance of identifying, assessing and managing risks prior to the occurrence of disasters, for which it is necessary to combine the efforts at all levels of the development, humanitarian, scientific and environmental communities, as well as the importance of integrating disaster reduction, as appropriate, into development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

"20. *Also stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities of developing countries through, inter alia, the transfer of environmentally

sound technologies and the exchange of experiences and technical knowledge; access to relevant data and information and the strengthening of institutional arrangements, including community-based organizations;

"21. *Recognizes* the importance of early warning as an essential element of disaster reduction and looks forward to the results of the Third International Conference on Early Warning to be held from 27 to 29 March 2006 in Bonn;

"22. *Reiterates* its call upon Governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction and to strengthen them wherever they exist and encourages those platforms to share relevant information on standards and practices and, in this regard, urges the United Nations system to provide appropriate support for those mechanisms and invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in order to ensure such support;

"23. *Stresses* that continued cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, are considered essential to addressing effectively the impact of natural disasters;

"24. *Recognizes* the importance of linking, as appropriate, disaster risk management to regional frameworks, such as the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Reduction, developed within the New Partnership for Africa's Development, to address issues of poverty eradication and sustainable development;

"25. *Stresses* the importance of implementing programmes related to the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and disaster reduction management in the most vulnerable regions of Latin America and the Caribbean;

"26. *Emphasizes* the need for the international community to maintain its focus beyond emergency relief, in order to sustain the political will to support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction, particularly in the context of efforts led by the Governments of the countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster and the South Asian earthquake;

"27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled 'Sustainable development'."

3. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.25.

4. At its 33rd meeting, on 2 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Stefano Toscano (Switzerland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.25, entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/60/L.46).

5. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman orally corrected the text as follows:

(a) In the eleventh preambular paragraph, the words "('Yokohama Strategy')" at the end of the paragraph were deleted;

(b) In the twelfth preambular paragraph, the words "for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action" were added to the end of the paragraph, after the words "Yokohama Strategy".

6. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.46.

7. Also at the 33rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.46, as orally corrected (see para. 15, draft resolution I).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.46, draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.25 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/60/L.27 and A/C.2/60/L.45

9. At the 30th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced and orally revised a draft resolution entitled "Natural disasters and vulnerability" (A/C.2/60/L.27), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its decision 57/547 of 20 December 2002 and its resolutions 58/215 of 23 December 2003 and 59/233 of 22 December 2004,

"*Reaffirming* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted by the World Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

"*Recalling* the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,

"*Recalling also* the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recognizing* the need to continue to develop an understanding of and to address the underlying risk factors, as identified in the Hyogo framework, that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards, to build and further strengthen community capacity to cope with disaster risks and to enhance resilience against hazards associated with disasters, while also recognizing the negative impact of natural disasters in the economic growth and sustainable development of developing countries,

"*Noting* that the global environment continues to suffer degradation, adding to economic and social vulnerabilities, in particular in developing countries,

"*Taking into account* the various ways and forms in which all countries, in particular the more vulnerable countries, are affected by severe natural

hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions and extreme weather events such as heat waves, severe droughts, floods, landslides and storms, and the El Niño/La Niña events, which have global reach,

"*Expressing deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in a massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

"*Expressing deep concern also* at the recent increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters in some regions of the world and their substantial economic, social and environmental impacts, in particular upon developing countries in those regions,

"*Taking into account* that geological and hydrometeorological hazards, extreme weather events and their associated natural disasters and their reduction must be addressed in a coherent and effective manner,

"*Noting* the need for international cooperation to increase the capacity of countries to respond to the negative impacts of all natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, extreme weather events such as heat waves, severe droughts, floods, landslides and associated natural disasters, particularly in developing countries,

"*Bearing in mind* the importance of addressing disaster risks related to changing social, economic and environmental conditions and land use and the impact of hazards associated with geological events, weather, water, climate variability and climate change in the economic growth and sustainable development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and other disaster-prone countries,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in particular Section II, on disasters associated with natural hazards and vulnerability: development challenge;

"2. *Urges* the international community to continue to address ways and means, including through cooperation and technical assistance, to reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters, including those caused by extreme weather events, in particular in vulnerable developing countries, through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to continue its work in this regard;

"3. *Stresses* the importance of the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and the priorities for action that States, regional, international organizations and international financial institutions, as well as other concerned actors, should take into consideration in their approach to disaster risk reduction, and implement them, as appropriate, to their own circumstances and capacities, bearing in mind the vital importance of addressing the adverse effects of natural disasters in efforts to implement their

national development plans and to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"4. *Encourages* Governments, through their respective International Strategy for Disaster Reduction national platforms and national focal points for disaster reduction, in cooperation with the United Nations system and other stakeholders, to strengthen capacity-building in the most vulnerable regions to enable them to address the socio-economic factors that increase vulnerability and to develop measures that will enable them to prepare for and cope with natural disasters, including those associated with earthquakes and extreme weather events, and encourages the international community to provide effective assistance to developing countries in this regard;

"5. *Emphasizes*, in order to build resilience in developing countries, particularly those vulnerable among them, the importance of addressing the underlying risk factors identified in the Hyogo Framework for Action and the importance of promoting integration of the reduction of risks associated with geological and hydrometeorological origins in disaster reduction programmes;

"6. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to continue to enhance the coordination of activities to promote disaster reduction and to make available to the relevant United Nations entities information on options for natural disaster reduction, including severe natural hazards and extreme weather-related disasters and vulnerabilities;

"7. *Stresses* the importance of close cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners as appropriate, taking into account the need for the development of disaster management strategies, including the effective establishment of early warning systems, where appropriate, while taking advantage of all available resources and expertise for that purpose;

"8. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and also encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to consider the issue of natural disasters and vulnerability at that session under the sub-item entitled 'International Strategy for Disaster Reduction' of the item entitled 'Sustainable development'."

10. At its 33rd meeting, on 2 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Stefano Toscano (Switzerland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.27, entitled "Natural disasters and vulnerability" (A/C.2/60/L.45).

11. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman orally corrected the draft resolution (see A/C.2/60/SR.33).

12. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.45, as orally corrected (see para. 15, draft resolution II).

14. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.45, draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.27 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

15. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002, 58/214 of 23 December 2003, and 59/231 of 22 December 2004 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into due consideration its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

Reiterating that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

Recognizing that disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting issue in the context of sustainable development,

Recognizing also the clear relationship between development, disaster risk reduction, disaster response and disaster recovery and the need to deploy efforts in all these areas,

Recognizing further the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to build resilience to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters effectively,

Emphasizing that disaster risk reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

Stressing the importance of advancing the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[1] and its relevant provisions on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management,

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[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Japan for the excellent arrangements made for hosting the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held at Kobe, Hyogo, from 18 to 22 January 2005, for the hospitality extended to the participants and for the facilities, staff and services placed at their disposal, as well as for all the voluntary contributions made to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular those from the least developed countries,

Welcoming the Hyogo Declaration,[2] the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[3] and the Common Statement of the Special Session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future,[4] as adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,

Recognizing that the Hyogo Framework for Action complements the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,[5]

Taking note that the scope of the Hyogo Framework for Action encompasses disasters caused by hazards of natural origin and related environmental and technological hazards and risks and thus reflects a holistic and multi-hazard approach to disaster risk management and the relationship between them, which can have a significant impact on social, economic, cultural and environmental systems, as stressed in the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6]

Recognizing the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen community capability to cope with disaster risks,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;[7]

2. *Endorses* the Hyogo Declaration[2] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters[3] as adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005, and recalls the Common Statement of the Special Session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future;[4]

3. *Calls* for a more effective integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies, planning and programming; for the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards and for a systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes;

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[2] See A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.
[3] Ibid., resolution 2.
[4] A/CONF.206/6, annex II.
[5] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[6] See resolution 60/1.
[7] A/60/180.

4. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, regional bodies, international organizations as well as relevant civil society organizations, to support, implement and follow up the Hyogo Framework for Action;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, including international financial institutions and international organizations, to integrate the goals of and take into full account the Hyogo Framework for Action in their strategies and programmes, making use of existing coordination mechanisms and to assist developing countries with those mechanisms to design disaster risk reduction measures with a sense of urgency;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to fully implement the commitments of the Hyogo Declaration and in the Hyogo Framework for Action;

7. *Recalls* that the commitments of the Hyogo Declaration and in the Hyogo Framework for Action include the provision of assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and disaster-stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions as well as regional banks and other regional and international organizations to support, in a timely and sustained manner, the efforts led by disaster-stricken countries for disaster risk reduction, in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes;

9. *Takes note* of all the regional and subregional initiatives developed in order to achieve disaster risk reduction, reiterates the need to develop regional initiatives and risk reduction capacities of regional mechanisms and to strengthen them, wherever they exist, and encourages the use and sharing of all the existing tools;

10. *Notes* the importance of developing international mechanisms for the implementation of the actions established in the Hyogo Framework for Action, such as, for example, the International Recovery Platform launched to ensure the reduction of vulnerability during the post-disaster recovery phase;

11. *Recognizes* that each State has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk, including for the protection of people on its territory, infrastructure and other national assets from the impact of disasters, including the implementation and follow-up of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and stresses the importance of international cooperation and partnerships to support those national efforts;

12. *Also recognizes* the need to strengthen the sharing of good practices, knowledge and technical support among all relevant stakeholders;

13. *Calls upon* the international community to support the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards;

14. *Stresses* the importance of further strengthening the capacity of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction system in order to provide a solid basis

for action as mandated by the Hyogo Framework for Action, and requests the Secretary-General to include this issue in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating a gender perspective as well as engaging women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, particularly at the disaster risk reduction stage;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the International Strategy by making voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

17. *Encourages* the international community to provide adequate voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction, in the effort to ensure the adequate support for the follow-up activities to the Hyogo Framework for Action, and to review the current usage and feasibility for the expansion of the Fund, inter alia, to assist disaster-prone developing countries to set up national strategies for disaster risk reduction;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the activities and effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

19. *Invites* Governments and relevant international organizations to consider disaster risk assessment as an integral component of development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

20. *Stresses* the importance of identifying, assessing and managing risks prior to the occurrence of disasters, for which it is necessary to combine the efforts at all levels from the development, humanitarian, scientific and environmental communities as well as the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction, as appropriate, into development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

21. *Also stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities through, inter alia, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, access to relevant data and information and the strengthening of institutional arrangements, including community-based organizations;

22. *Recognizes* the importance of early warning as an essential element of disaster risk reduction and looks forward to the results of the Third International Conference on Early Warning, which will be held from 27 to 29 March 2006, in Bonn, Germany;

23. *Requests*, in this context, the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to complete the preparation of the global survey on early warning capacities and gaps, including an account of available technologies for early warning, and invites Member States to provide inputs that may assist the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in preparing this survey;

24. *Reiterates* its call on Governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction and to strengthen them, wherever they exist, encourages the platforms to share relevant information on standards and practices,

in this regard urges the United Nations system to provide appropriate support for those mechanisms, and invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in order to ensure such support;

25. *Stresses* that continued cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, are considered essential to address effectively the impact of natural disasters;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of linking disaster risk management to regional frameworks, as appropriate, such as the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Reduction developed within the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[8] to address issues of poverty eradication and sustainable development;

27. *Emphasizes* the need for the international community to maintain its focus beyond emergency relief and support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction, and stresses the importance of implementing programmes related to the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction management in the most vulnerable regions, particularly in developing countries prone to natural disasters;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

[8] A/57/304, annex.

Draft resolution II
Natural disasters and vulnerability

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 57/547 of 20 December 2002 and its resolutions 58/215 of 23 December 2003 and 59/233 of 22 December 2004,

Reaffirming the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[2] adopted by the World Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

Reaffirming the Hyogo Declaration[3] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[4] as adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,

Taking note that the scope of the Hyogo Framework for Action encompasses disasters caused by hazards of natural origin and related environmental and technological hazards and risks and thus reflects a holistic and multi-hazard approach to disaster risk management and the relationship between them, which can have a significant impact on social, economic, cultural and environmental systems, as stressed in the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,[5]

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6]

Recognizing the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, the underlying risk factors, as identified in the Hyogo Framework for Action, including socio-economic factors, that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards, to build and further strengthen community capacity to cope with disaster risks and to enhance resilience against hazards associated with disasters, while also recognizing the negative impact of natural disasters on economic growth and sustainable development, in particular in developing countries and disaster-prone countries,

Noting that the global environment continues to suffer degradation, adding to economic and social vulnerabilities, in particular in developing countries,

Taking into account the various ways and forms in which all countries, in particular the more vulnerable countries, are affected by severe natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides and volcanic eruptions and extreme weather events such as heat waves, severe droughts, floods and storms, and the El Niño/La Niña events which have global reach,

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[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[3] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[4] Ibid., resolution 2.

[5] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex 1.

[6] Resolution 60/1.

Expressing deep concern at the recent increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters in some regions of the world and their substantial economic, social and environmental impacts, in particular upon developing countries in those regions,

Taking into account that geological and hydrometeorological hazards and their associated natural disasters and their reduction must be addressed in a coherent and effective manner,

Noting the need for international cooperation and regional cooperation to increase the capacity of countries to respond to the negative impacts of all natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides and volcanic eruptions and extreme weather events such as heat waves, severe droughts and floods, and associated natural disasters, in particular in developing countries and disaster-prone countries,

Bearing in mind the importance of addressing disaster risks related to changing social, economic, environmental conditions and land use, and the impact of hazards associated with geological events, weather, water, climate variability and climate change, in sector development planning and programmes as well as in post-disaster situations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[7] in particular section II, entitled "Disasters associated with natural hazards and vulnerability: development challenge";

2. *Recognizes* that each State has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk, including for the protection of people on its territory, infrastructure and other national assets from the impact of disasters, including the implementation and follow-up of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[4] and stresses the importance of international cooperation and partnerships to support those national efforts;

3. *Urges* the international community to continue to address ways and means, including through cooperation and technical assistance, to reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters, including those caused by extreme weather events, in particular in vulnerable developing countries, including least developed countries and in Africa, through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, including the Hyogo Framework for Action, and encourages the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to continue its work in this regard;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the Hyogo Declaration[3] and the Hyogo Framework for Action[4] and the priorities for action that States, regional and international organizations and international financial institutions as well as other concerned actors should take into consideration in their approach to disaster risk reduction and implement, as appropriate, according to their own circumstances and capacities, bearing in mind the vital importance of promoting a culture of prevention in the area of natural disasters, including through the mobilization of adequate resources for disaster risk reduction, and of addressing disaster risk reduction, including disaster preparedness, and the adverse effects of natural disasters in

[7] A/60/180.

efforts to implement national development plans and poverty reduction strategies with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

5. *Encourages* Governments, through their respective International Strategy for Disaster Reduction national platforms and national focal points for disaster risk reduction, in cooperation with the United Nations system and other stakeholders, to strengthen capacity-building in the most vulnerable regions, to enable them to address the socio-economic factors that increase vulnerability, and to develop measures that will enable them to prepare for and cope with natural disasters, including those associated with earthquakes and extreme weather events, and encourages the international community to provide effective assistance to developing countries in this regard;

6. *Emphasizes*, in order to build resilience, particularly in developing countries, especially those vulnerable among them, the importance of addressing the underlying risk factors identified in the Hyogo Framework for Action and the importance of promoting the integration of risk reduction associated with geological and hydrometeorological hazards in disaster risk reduction programmes;

7. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to continue, within its mandate, particularly the Hyogo Framework for Action, to enhance the coordination of activities to promote disaster risk reduction and to make available to the relevant United Nations entities information on options for natural disaster risk reduction, including severe natural hazards and extreme weather-related disasters and vulnerabilities;

8. *Stresses* the importance of close cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations and other partners such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as appropriate, taking into account the need for the development of disaster management strategies, including the effective establishment of early warning systems that are, inter alia, people-centred, while taking advantage of all available resources and expertise for that purpose;

9. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[8] and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[9] to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and also encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to consider the issue of natural disasters and vulnerability at that session, under the sub-item entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" of the item entitled "Sustainable development".

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[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[9] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.